



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

S-6J

**Non-
Responsive**

Thank you for your May 7, 2018 email to Administrator Pruitt regarding the Tremont City Barrel Fill Superfund Site. Your email about the protectiveness of the selected remedy, the remedy's cost estimate, and bankruptcy of potentially responsible parties (PRPs) has been referred to me for response.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is aware that U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sent waste materials to the Tremont City Barrel Fill, and that dioxin could exist in drummed materials. EPA believes that the selected remedy documented in the 2011 Record of Decision (ROD), as modified by the 2018 Explanation of Significant Differences, will be protective of human health and the environment. Please note that the guidance and requirements for sites being addressed under the Superfund Alternative approach are the same as for sites on the National Priorities List.

The selected remedy requires the excavation and off-site disposal of liquid wastes and nearly 1,000 drums of still bottom waste, construction of a disposal cell with a double bottom liner, leachate collection system and cap, consolidation of the remaining non-liquid waste materials within the disposal cell, and long-term groundwater monitoring. The required design elements of the disposal cell are similar in many respects to those of commercial hazardous waste landfills. Regardless of the toxicity of any additional materials that may be discovered during remedy implementation, the new disposal cell will safely contain the wastes. Long-term groundwater monitoring will be conducted to ensure the remedy is functioning as intended, and EPA will continue to evaluate the effectiveness and protectiveness of the remedy during five-year reviews. Such reviews are required as long as waste remains in place at the site.

EPA followed appropriate guidance for developing feasibility study (FS) cost estimates. Although the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-94 has been revised over the years, EPA's current guidance – Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) Directive 9355.3-20, issued in 1993 – recommends that a 7% discount rate be used for present worth cost estimates for Superfund remedies. Regions are still encouraged to follow that guidance, although the use of a different discount rate is allowed provided it is properly documented in the remedy selection decision documents. In accordance with EPA guidance, FS-level cost estimates are developed as order-of-magnitude cost estimates, with a desired accuracy

of up to 50 percent over the estimate and as low as 30 percent under the estimate, with a period of performance (for cost estimating only) not exceeding 30 years. The cost of the remedy will be refined during the remedial design phase of the project. EPA does not anticipate that the disposal cell will need to be excavated and rebuilt in the future.

To address potential bankruptcy concerns, EPA would not authorize any PRP to perform the selected response action at a Superfund site without providing adequate financial assurance. In this case, any PRP who commits to implementing the selected remedy would need to provide adequate financial assurance to ensure completion of the design, construction, and long-term operation and maintenance of the selected remedy.

Again, thank you for your email. If you have further questions, please contact James Saric, Remedial Project Manager, at (312) 886-0992 or Saric.James@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

5/23/2018

X 

Douglas Ballotti
Acting Director, Superfund Division
Signed by: DOUGLAS BALLOTTI

